

WHEN JESUS WAS TWELVE YEARS OLD

LUKE 2:40-52

Have you ever been on a trip to another city? If you have you probably went by car or bus. How would you like to walk for 3 days, like from Nazareth to Jerusalem?

In Luke chapter 2 verses 40 to 52, we read that Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth and went to Jerusalem every year to celebrate the Passover, a Jewish feast. When Jesus was 12 years old, He went with them. After the feast had ended, they started walking back home to Nazareth along with many other people. Friends and neighbours often traveled together to the feast at Jerusalem. Joseph and Mary noticed that Jesus was not with them. But they didn't worry because they thought he would be with their friends or relatives. They did not see him all day.

Evening came and still Jesus did not come back to them. So they began looking for him and started to worry. They began asking everyone if they had seen Him, but no one had. By this time they were very worried. They started back to Jerusalem to search for Him there. It took them a day to return and another day before they finally found Him. He was at the temple talking with the great teachers there, listening to them and asking them questions. These men were greatly surprised at how much Jesus knew. He was only 12 years old while they were like college professors. Yet He could ask puzzling questions. "Son" his mother exclaimed. "Why have you done this? Your father and I have been searching for you everywhere." Jesus was surprised. "Didn't you know I would be here at the temple in my Father's house" he asked?

At first Joseph and Mary did not understand what He meant. But his mother had always remembered what He had said. She pondered it in her heart. That means she thought about it often. Afterwards she understood that He was the Son of God, so of course He would want to be at His Father's house, the temple.

The Bible tells us that Jesus grew tall and wise. In verse 52 it says Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and men. Jesus is the Son of God and always does what His Father wants. But the Bible reminds you and me that we sin. We do wrong things that God does not like. But when Jesus was 33 years old, He died on the cross taking the punishment for our sins. When we believe this and ask Jesus to come into our heart and life, we become a Child of God. God wants you for His child and that's why He sent Jesus. Will you treasure Jesus' words in your heart like Mary did? Read today's Bible lesson in Luke chapter 2 verses 40 to 52.